

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 EB-07 PM-04

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00

/083 W

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R 271455Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6374

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

FAA LAGOS

FAA BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

USDAO ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2368

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, MMOL, MR, US

SUBJECT: LEASED AMERICAN AIRCRAFT DELIVERS AMMUNITION TO
NOUAKCHOTT

REF: (A) FAA BRUSSELS 031531Z SEP 76, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 2144,
(C) FAA BRUSSELS 091919Z SEP 76(ALL NOTAL)

1. AMERICAN REGISTERED CONSTELLATION ON LEASE TO MAURITANIAN
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE BY CIM ASSOCIATES MADE FIRST TRIP TO
NOUAKCHOTT SEPT. 27. AIRCRAFT HAS EGISTRATION NUMBER N273R
AND CARRIES AMERICAN FLAG. ACCORDING TO AIRCRAFT COMMANDER,
CREW CONSISTS OF TWO BRITISH NATIONALS AND ONE CANADIAN.
DURING INITIAL FLIGHT PLANE TRANSPORTED 7.65 MM AMMUNITION
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(FOR MINI-GUNS ON GIRM'S DEFENDER PLANES) AND SURA ROCKETS.

BOTH ROCKETS AND AMMUNITION WERE LOADED IN ROME. AIRCRAFT COMMANDER SAID TWO MORE FLIGHTS FROM ROME TO NOUAKCHOTT ARE SCHEDULED AND HE IS HOPEFUL THAT MORE PERMANENT ARRANGEMENT CAN BE AGREED UPON.

2. FLIGHTS OF MOROCCAN C-130S TO NOUAKCHOTT RECOMMENCED LAST WEEK. AT LEAST THREE TRIPS TOOK PLACE ON SEPT. 22, 23 AND 24. C-130S TRANSPORTED BOTH AMMUNITION AND SEVERAL UNIDENTIFIED FIELD WEAPONS.

3. EXPATRIATE ENGINEER ON CONTRACT TO MAURITANIAN AIR FORCE TOLD EMBOFF LAST WEEK THAT GIRM IS SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING PURCHASE OF TWO BUFFALO UTILITY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT BUILT BY DE HAVILLAND OF CANADA. AIR FORCE REPORTEDLY WISHES TO AUGMENT ITS CURRENT TRANSPORT CAPACITY (TWO SKY VANS).

4. COMMENT: AS BEST AS WE CAN TELL, RECENT ARMS DELIVERIES AT NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT ARE NOT RELATED TO INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MAURITANIA. MILITARY SITUATION APPEARS TO BE RELATIVELY QUIET ALTHOUGH TWO DEFENDER AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN SPENDING CONSIDERABLE TIME OUTSIDE OF NOUAKCHOTT AIRPORT, THEIR NORMAL BASE OF OPERATION. ON OTHER HAND, GIRM MAY EXPECT INCREASE IN POLISARIO OPERATIONS OR SUPPLY OF AMMUNITION SIMPLY MAY BE RUNNING LOW.

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